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SUNDERLAND RURAL DISTRICT.

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1940

J. CLEMINSON M.B.,B.S.,B.Hy.,D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

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SUNDERLAND RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF SUNDERLAND.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1940 (which has been considerably curtailed at the request of the Ministry of Health). The Health of your District has continued to be satisfactory, and war time conditions have not, I think, had any a dverse effect, generally speaking.

It is with regret we record the resignation of Mr. Hitchen, under the age limit, and we welcome Mr. Churchill in his place.

I gratefully acknowledge the willing co-operation of all your officials, and the loyal support of your Council, during the past year.

I remain, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. CLEMINSON, M.D., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

December , 1941.

STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	8,286 acres.
Registrar General's estimate of resident population, mid-1940	23.330
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1939) according to rate book	6,430
Rateable Value	£98726
Sum represented by penny rate	£411

BIRTHS AND BIRTH RATE

The nett number of Births in the District was 417.

The sex and legitimacy classification is shewn thus :-

		Male.	Female.	Total.
LIVE BIRTHS	Legitimate	199.	202.	401.
	Illegitimate	9.	7.	16.

The Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population is 17.8, this compares with a Birth Rate of 14.6 per 1,000 of the population for England and Wales.

STILL BIRTHS.

During 1940 there were 12 still births in the District.

		Males.	Females.
STILL BIRTHS	Legitimate	6.	6.
	Illegitimate	Nil.	

This gives a rate of 28 per 1,000 total Live and Still Births.

The Still Birth Rate of the population is 0.51 per thousand. The corresponding figure for England and Wales is 0.55

DEATHS AND DEATH RATE.

During 1940 there were 200 deaths registered as having occurred within the District, namely 102 males and 98 females.

The number of deaths of residents in the District, which occurred outside the District, was 49 males and 27 females.
The total number of deaths therefore , when corrected for the inward and outward transfers, is 151 males and 125 females.
The death-rate (corrected for outward and inward transfers) and including deaths from all causes and at all ages, was 11.8 per thousand of the estimated population.

The Registrar General supplies a factor for obtaining a crude death-rate for the District. This enables the crude death-rate in the Sunderland Rural District to be compared with the crude death-rate of the country, as a whole.

Such crude death-rates are shewn thus :-
Sunderland Rural District - 13.5 per thousand estimated population.

England and Wales - 14.3 per thousand of the population.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Thirteen children died during 1940 before attaining the age of one year.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	10.	2.	12.
Illegitimate	Nil.	1.	1.

The Death Rate of Infants under one year, is shewn according to the total number of live births, and legitimacy :-

Death Rate for all infants per thousand live births	31.1
Death Rate for all infants per thousand legitimate live births	32.4
Death Rate for illegitimate infants per thousand illegitimate live births	62.5

The infantile mortality rate of 31 is the lowest yet recorded. This figure compares very favourably with that for England and Wales, which is 55.
Of the thirteen infants who died, nine died from congenital malformations, prematurity and debility (atrophy and marasmus).

This gives a percentage of 69.2 for the deaths of all the infants who died.

DEATHS FROM CANCER.

There were thirty-two deaths notified as being due to cancer in 1940.

The causes of all Deaths in the District during 1940 is shewn in the following table :-

Cause of Death.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Diphtheria	-	1.	1.
Influenza	2.	1.	3.
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1.	1.	2.
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	15.	7.	22.
Other Tuberculous Diseases	1.	1.	2.
Syphilis	-	1.	1.
Intra-cran Vasc. Lesions	18.	21.	39.
Cancer	20.	12.	32.
Diabetes	4.	2.	6.
Heart Disease	20.	31.	51.
Other Circulatory Diseases	1.	2.	3.
Bronchitis	15.	6.	21.
Pneumonia (all forms)	11.	3.	14.
Other Respiratory Diseases	4.	1.	5.
Peptic Ulcer	2.	-	2.
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	-	1.	1.
Other Digestive Diseases	4.	5.	9.
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	5.	4.	9.
Premature Birth etc.	7.	3.	10.
Suicide	-	1.	1.
Other Violence	5.	7.	12.
Road Traffic Accidents	2.	-	2.
Other causes	14.	14.	28.
	151.	125.	276.

HOSPITAL.

During the past year 145 cases of infectious disease have been admitted to the Sunderland Rural District Council Isolation Hospital, as follows-

Disease.	Patients in Hospital on 31st Dec. 1939	Patients admitted during 1940.	Patients in the Hospital on 31st Dec. 1940.
Scarlet Fever	7.	20.	2.
Diphtheria	13.	64.	9.
Measles	1.	1.	-
German Mea sles	-	3.	-
Scabies	-	31.	2.
Observation	-	21.	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever	-	4.	-
Erysipelas	-	1.	-

Sixty-one cases were admitted to the Tuberculosis Pavilion, at the following ages :-

15 years and under 25 years	28.
25 " " " 45 "	32.
Over 65 years	1.

Eight deaths occurred from Tuberculosis.

There has been a high percentage of admissions, to the Rural District Isolation Hospital, from Usworth Aerodrome and other military camps in the district. The accommodation for these men has been adequate and the admissions from these sources has caused no interference with admissions from the ordinary civilian population.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

During the year 1940, 926 cases of infectious disease, including all forms of Tuberculosis, were notified.

SCARLET FEVER.

The number of cases of this disease notified was 38, and this figure shows a decline from that of last year, which was 50.
The disease was of a mild type and caused no anxiety.

DIPHTHERIA.

The figure for notifications for this disease 64, is practically the same as that for last year, which was 66. The disease was of a mild type and gave little cause for anxiety. The attack ra te appears to be rather high, but many of the cases notified were, on admission to hospital, found to be cases of tonsillitis and not diphtheria.

MEASLES.

707 cases of this disease were notified, but this high incidence was not confined to this district alone, but was experienced over the County as a whole. The disease was of a mild type and caused little serious illness

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1940.

Age Periods.	New Cases. Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary		Deaths. Pulmonary		Non-Pulmon:	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
5	2	1	4	4	-	-	-	-
10	-	1	2	-	-	-	1	-
15	3	2	1	-	2	1	-	-
20	1	1	1	-	1	2	-	-
25	1	5	2	-	6	2	-	1
35	1	-	2	-	2	2	-	-
45	2	1	-	-	2	-	-	-
55	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-
Totals	12.	11.	15.	5.	15.	7.	1.	1.

It has not been necessary to take any action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade.

No action under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which relates to the compulsory removal to Hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis, has been taken.

THE FOLLOWING TABLE SHOWS THE NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE DURING THE YEAR 1940 TOGETHER WITH THE AGES AT WHICH DISEASE OCCURRED AND THE INCIDENCE IN EACH OF THE RESPECTIVE PARISHES.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.													TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH PARISH.								
	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 65	65 & up	Ford	Herr-ington E. & M. West.		Hylton	Offer-ton.	Ryhope	Silks-worth	Tunstal	Total cases removed To R.D. Hospital
Diphtheria (including Membraneous Croup)	64		2		10	1	26	10	11	3	1			5	1		11		25	3	19	64
Erysipelas	13								1	3	2	6	1	2					11			1
Scarlet Fever	38		5	1	4	9	11	4	2	2				3	1		1		14	2	17	20
Puerperal Pyrexia	4									3	1			1					3			
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	4							2		2									2	1	1	4
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	6	6																			6	
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	23						3	1	5	8	1	5		8					9	2	4	
Other forms of Tuberculosis	20		1		1		8	2	1	3	2		2	5	1		2		2	4	6	
Pneumonia	46	2	3	2	1	3	7	2	1	2	3	16	4	9	2	1	4		12	5	13	
Whooping cough	1			1															1			
Measles	707	37	74	73	96	84	336	7						4	6	3	70	1	430	35	158	1
Totals	926	45	85	77	112	97	391	28	21	26	10	27	7	37	11	4	88	1	509	52	224	90